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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: YAMAGUCHI et al.

Application No.: 09/698,274

Filed: October 30, 2000

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, METHOD OF MAKING
THE SAME AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE

Group: 2826

Examiner: F. Abraham

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(1#) Ltr re!
Withdrawal
Office action

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 24, 2002

Sir:

The Office action mailed April 17, 2002 in connection with the above-
identified application is noted.

This Office Action mailed April 17, 2002 re-formulated the restriction
requirement, including therein claims 31-34, and clarifying the group to which claim
26 belonged.

Without response by applicants to the Office Action mailed April 17,
2002, the Examiner has issued an Office Action mailed May 1, 2002 in connection
with the above-identified application.

To clarify the record in connection with the above-identified application,
and noting applicants' "Response" submitted April 15, 2002, it is respectfully
submitted that the Office Action mailed May 1, 2002 constitutes a withdrawal by the
Examiner of the Office Action mailed April 17, 2002, and an action on the merits of

the semiconductor device claims. Based thereon, and emphasizing that the Office Action mailed May 1, 2002 withdrew the Office Action mailed April 17, 2002, applicants respectfully affirm their election of the Group I claims directed to the device, and acknowledge proceeding with an examination on the merits of the device claims in the Office Action mailed May 1, 2002.

In any event, if the Examiner has not withdrawn the Office Action mailed April 17, 2002, in order to clarify the record in connection with the above-identified application and avoid any possibility of abandonment of the above-identified application due to failure to respond to the Office Action mailed April 17, 2002, applicants respectfully elect the Group I claims which are claims 1-7, 9-13, 15-18 and 27-34, for prosecution on the merits in the present application.

Furthermore, applicants will in due course file a complete response to the Office Action mailed May 1, 2002, noting that a shortened statutory period of three (3) months has been set for response to the Office Action mailed May 1, 2002.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 501.36636REO) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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